ST. VALENTINE AND CUPID.

BY MARY C PRESTON.

"For me?" asked Anna, coloring a little, and holding out her hand for the pretty lace-like envelope, with the few touches of gilt, which her sister was looking at with admiration.

"Don't be in a hurry, Minna said, coolly. "It's a valentine, of course, and you shall have it in a moment. I am trying to remember where I saw this writing. Oh," with sudden conviction, "I could swear to it now! It is-it is-a valentine from George Dennis!"

"It is mine, and I think you might spare veurself all this anxiety concerning the sender of it." said Anna, a little fartly, taking it from her sister's band

But Minns would not be crushed. She followed Anna to the window, and laid her

ard coaxingly on the plump shoulder.
"Open it and let me see, too," she said,
with all the assurance of fifteen years, and an unlimited amount of curiosity in love sifairs. "He's se bashful, that I'm sure it it will be droll. Perhaps he has taken this chance of proposing to you—he never would find a better, and we all know how much he is in love with your"

"Minna," Anna cried, "you are a perfect little goose, and I shall not gratify your

With that, and with a deepened color on eith pretty cheek, she ran out of the room. It was the 14th of February, and Anna had surely received a valentine, which she was arefully opening in her own room, and reading with dimpling smiles and sparkling

First there was a lack-work affair, with the prefficet little Cupid, half hidden by silver leaves, holding in one plump hand an arrow with a transfixed heart upon it, while the chubby foreinger of the other lay lightly on the little god's lip.
"A pretty ides," Anna whispered, regarding it smilingly. "It surely means a silent

love. I never thought George at all roman-Then she drew from the envelope a tinted,

pilt-edged card and slowly read the printed I'd rather be thine own, beloved, Forever in thy heart to dwell,

Than own the treasures of the earth, In palace, cot or cell: When joy can only come from thee?"

"Particularly the 'cell' part of it," laughed

Then she drew out a sheet of note paper. her heart giving a few unaccustomed throbs: rilence, because I dare not speak; but the time has come for confession from me, and I make it here, almost without a hope. You are so beautiful, so winning, that better than I will bring you pleadings and find you more willing to hear. Yet, if a life's devotion is anything to you, send me a line, saying I may call on you to-night and lay my heart at your feet. If I receive no word from you, I will know that there is indeed no | they have taken pains to guard against loss hope for me, and you will never see my face

again on earth. Do you not realize my suspense? Shorten it, if you care in the least for me. Your lover always, G. D."

Half an hour later, a little fellow was running across the fields, not minding the less on the conditions already stated. scow, because Anna had given him a piece of silver, if he would deliver the note he held in his hand to Mr. George Dennis.

And said note ran thus: I accept you as my valentine; come to-night, and come in hope. Yours, ANNA SNOWE. In the evening, when a tall, handsome youth stood tremblinly at the door, walting

"I want to tell you-I'm awfully sorry, but Anna would never forgive me if she knew," the girl began, confusedly. "I sent ber a valentine, and an awfully silly one, to-day; and I copied your hand, and it proposed to her; and I only meant it as a joke. But when I found that she had sent you word to come to night, I didn't care

Mr. Dennis took one of Minna's hands and held it firmly, his eyes lighting, his face

"Tell me what was in the note you sent Anna in my name," he said quietly. "Per-

baps she need not know." "But I'm afraid she must" Minna was now almost crying. "I told her you had loved her a long while, and would go away forever unless she could give you hope; and, if she cared at all for you, I told her to send a line, saying you might come to-night. It was all for a jest, but-but I am afraid she took it seriously, and now she will never for-

give me'" "Let me make your peace with her. Where

"In the parlor." "Alone?"

"Then I think, my little Minna, you have been the best friend to me to-day man ever

And he stooped and kissed her on the fore-head, then turned hastily in the direction of

I wonder what he means? And I do wonder why in the world he kissed me? Maybe because I'm Anna's sister?" Minna said, sagely, to herselt, as she darted off along the hall, feeling very much as though she | and pale, they gave her Brown's Iron Bitters. deserved a sound shaking for the thoughtless It built her up in health and made her ruddy

Meanwhile, George had entered the parlor where Anna was, looking very sweet and very shy, and pretending to be very much interested in a novel; and when she looked up on his entrance, and blushed so divinely, George Dennis, who had always been so bashful an individual, did something extremaly old and daring, for, taking the hand she xtended to him, he drew very close to her, coked a moment on the pretty, downcast face, and then—whispering something which sounded like "darling," stooped impudently, and touched the girl's red lips with his.

Half an hour later Minna put her head in at the parlor door, and opened her mischievous eyes widely to see how near together two other beads were.

A very decided "M'm!" from her separsted them, however, and she entered demurely, but looking anything but sahamed

"I see you have made my peaca. George," she said, placidly; "and I think I really that is not possible for nature to neutralize, belped you both by what I did: s) thanks and hence affects the milk. The amount of

puzzled way, not at all comprehending. "Did you not tell her?" Minna asked.

And George was very red as he turned to his lady-love. "I have something to confess," he said,

confusedly. And then he told her how Minna's prank | acute rheumatism, and, notwithstanding I

had served his need, and made his wooing had taken everything I could bear of, I grew still worse, till this winter. Hearing of the virtues of Mishler's Herb Bitters, I deterto me for a whole year." he said in conclu- mined to purchase a bottle of it, and it affords

send me away from you forever. When your note came to-day, I was almost wild with de light, although I owned it seemed a little strange at first, but I fancied you had seen how it was with me, and so kindly gave me a word of encouragement."

"As if I would!" Anna cried, indignantly. "I'll never forgive you, Minna! What could have induced you to do anything so cruel? I'll never in my life forgive

"Oh, yes you will." Minna said, serenely, skipping to the door. "George promised ma your pardon, and I know he'll get it for me." Which he did after tears, reproaches and denunciations from Anna, and many and warm profestations on his part

And six months afterward Minna was chief bridesmaid, and enjoyed the occasion

"I rather think it was a very nice sisterly set of mine after all-the sending of that valentine" she said to Anna once. "But tor | it I am sure George would go on loving you in allence for years-all his life, perhaps; and wasn't that a cute little Cund I sent yeo? I really think"-laughing-'I have a decided genius for match-making." But Anna's cheeks were very red, although

she smiled. HOW FARMERS ARE SWINDLED.

The Neat Little Game Which a New York

Sharper is Playing. [New York Times.] MARLEOROUGH, N. Y., Feb. 13.—The par-ticulars of an enticing and plausible swindie were learned this afternoon. The new dodge is planned to suit the present more or less bard times, and the way it is "worked" is as ingenious as it is new. Letters, not lithograph copies or imitation type writer epistles, are used, and all emanate from one source in New York City, the only address given being a box at the General Postoffice. From accounts received this evening by the Times' correspondent from localities in the counties of Sullivan, Orange, Greene, Dutchess and Ulster it appears that all the letter, sent out are written in one man's hand writing, who claims to be a lawyer representing people desirons of investing money in real estate, especially so in small resenting people desirous of investing money in real estate, especially so in small fruit arms and other country property. The New York swindler apparently has scanned the country directories carefully, for in nearly every instance he says this or that gentleman, naming some well-known man, has informed him that the name of the rehas informed him that the name of the recipient of the missive was mentioned to him, and he knows that money so "put out" will be perfectly safe. He then goes on to Stomach, Heartburn, Sick Headache, Diarrhes say that he, as the representative of Russell Sage, Cyrus W. Field, and a number of other brokers and maneyed Wall street men, offers to loan a sum not exceeding \$500 at 4 per cent. The "representative" states that he of water. It is better than French Brandy or Birth and the cent. has made thorough inquiries as to the standpafolded it hastily, and read the following, ing and responsibility of the party to whom My Live Star-I have loved you long in to do is to send his note and the interest ou the amount desired to be borrowed. The swindler naively adds that the interest asked is so low that it must be paid in advance. It is pointed out that of a necessity everything is square and above board when such men as Messrs. Sage and Field back an enterprise of this kind. Moreover, the tempting offer goes on to state, the risk is sli on the capitalists' side, but inasmuch as

less on the conditions already stated. Farmers and others to the number of a score or more in the counties named during the past few days have seized this, which seems to them at first sight to be a golden opportunity of borrowing \$500 for \$20 cash down for a long term of years and at a low rate of interest. The lawyer, alleged or otherwise, has several aliases, Archibald Secor, for an answer to his ring, and wondering what had happened to make him so unutterably happy, the door was opened by Minthe Husson River counties, and interest on mortgaged farms will be due in a week or mort aged farms will be due in a week or two, and the way innocent and confiding victims have jumped at the transparent swindle is astonishing. The old note and patent right games are "worked" annually with varrying success, but this new swindle is admitted to be the cheekiest and neatest looked as if you had written it. Do you not understand? She thinks you have—have duced into the Hudson Valley territory in a

trom wicked people—for, the letter states, there appears to be such in the rural districts

Recaptured. Mistress (to applicant for service)-How many nights out of a week? Applicant-None, mum. Oi niver sthir

Mistress-Will you have many friends to see you? Applicant-Nat wau, mum. Oi have no

Mistress-What wages will you expect? Applicant-Oi'll lave that to ye, mum. Mistress-What kinds of housework are

Applicant-Oi'm wullin' to wash an' airun an' cook an' schrub an' ciane windys an' wait on table an' taike care av childer an' carry in coal an' build faires- (Here a loud ringing was heard at the door, and the keeper of an asylum rushed in and secured the tunatic) .- New York Sun.

> Joking on a Grave Subject. [Chicago Times.]

Mr. Gladstone attended church as usual Sunday, and doubtless joined the congregation in that mournful hymn: "Hark, from Kkartoum, a Deleful Sound."

prank that was likely to be so resented by and strong. Miss Weigold, 23 Perry street, Pittsburg, Pa., writes that her sister, aged thirteen, took several bottles of Brown's Iron Bitters for nervousness and dyspensia, and was greatly relieved

The Old, Old Story. Why do we hear so much about dysoepsia? Simply because so many people have it. Why are so many people talking about their cure from this dreadful disease? Simply because they have been taking Brown's Iron Bitters. Thus it is with Mrs Taylor, of Lyrchburg Sumter County, S C., who says: 'I have used Brown's Iron Bitters for dyspepsia with most favorable results. I heheve this medicine is all that is represented." Dyspeptics and sufferers from neuralgia, weakness, etc., should try it.

Natural vegetable soids do not harm milk, but the artificial seid of farmenting tood introduces an element into the consumption that is not possible for nature to neutralize, are due me, really, not reprosches. What ferment may be small and do little injury, do you say, sister?" Anna looked from one to the other in a | have a deleterious effect, which experiment time and again has demonstrated.

Jacob R. Evarts, a well-known merchant of Lancaster. Pa., adds his testimony to thousands of others. He writes: "For several years past I have been subject to severe and sion, "but I never could. I was afraid you | me great pleasure in recommending it to the cared nothing for me, and that you would | public as a sure and safe medicine.

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FALSE AND TRUE, We extract from Dr. Radway a "Treatise on Da ease and Its Cure," as follows: List of disease cured by DR. RADWAY'S

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A GREAT CONSTITUTIONAL REMEDY Skin diseases, tumors, tilcers and scree of al. kinds, particularly chronic diseases of the skin are cured with great certainty by a course of Dr RADWAY'S SARSAPARILLIAN, We mean obst nate cases that have resisted all other treatment

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Yes, and when the roses faded from her cheeks and she became listless and languid

and role they gave her Property Level Prince.

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THE ASSETS OF THE COMPANY ARE AS FOLLOWS: The greatest amount in any one risk...... The greatest amount allowed by the rules of the Company to be insured .m any one city, town or village-Not limited STATE OF INDIANA, OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE. I, the undersigned, Auditor of State of the State of Indiana, hereby certify that the above is a correct copy of the statement of the condition of the above mentioned Company, on the kind day of becomber, 1884, as shown by the original statement, and that the said original statement is now on In testimony whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name and affix my official scal this 2d day of February, 1885.

JAMES H. RICE, Auditor of State.

COPY OF STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION

LANCASHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

- OF THE

UNITED STATES BRANCH OF THE

On the 31st Day of December, 1384.

Locate dat Nos. 40 and 42 Pine Street, New York City, N. Y. E. Litchileid, U. S. Manager. Home Office: Manch.s er. England THE ASSETS OF THE COMPANY IN THE U. S. ARE AS FOLLOWS:

STATE OF INDIANA, OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE.

I, the undersigned, Auditor of State of the state of Indiana, hereby certify that the above is a correct copy of the statement of the condition of the above mentioned Commany, on the State day of December, 1884, as shown by the original statement, and that the said original statement is now on In testimony whereof, I hereauto su soribe my name and affix my official seal this lith.

[L. 8.] day of February, 1889. James H. Riue, Auditor of State.

COPY OF STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION

of Monopolies in whatever form appearing. Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, On the 31st day of December, 1884.

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Ratifold Bonds.

Pairead and Other Stocks.

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Loans secured by collaters is

Debts otherwise secured—Loans on Company's toticles in force.

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LIABILITIES,

STATE OF INDIANA, OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE.

I, the undersigned, Auditor of State of the State of Indiana, hereby certify that the above is a correct copy of the statement of the condition of the above mentioned Company on one statement of the condition of the above mentioned Company. December, 1884, as shown by the original statement, and that the said original statement is now on [i. s.] In testimony whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name and affix my official seal, this little day of February, 1885.

[AMES d. RICE, Auditor of Sance.

IOPPICIAL! COPY OF STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION

Union Central Life Insurance Co.,

On the 31st Day of December, 1884. Located at No. 241 West Fourth Street, Cincinnati. Ohlo.

THE ASSETS OF THE COMPANY ARE AS FOLLOWS: follows—market value:
Five Bonds of the town of Bucyrus, Ohio, 65.....

Total Assets...... \$ 2.217,85) 55 LIABILITIES.

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